TL1480

June 22, 1989 10PM

Lisbon, Liem, Pat,

At 1:30 PM an appointment made with the chief of the Second Southeast Asian Division of the Foreign Ministry yesterday (at that point with the intention of urging the Foreign Ministry to grant asylum) was kept, this time with the purpose of ascertaining what happened, and urging follow-up protection. The discussion generally followed the points in the "REPRESENTATION" that was handed over. Attending the meeting with Division Chief Nomoto were Kijima-san, Kiyo, and Fr. Coelho from the Free East Timor Japan Coalition, one representative each from Amnesty and the Asian Human Rights Fund. Eda Satsuki, who arranged the meeting was present and talked a lot.

The "hard" attitude that was already evident in contacts with the Foreign Ministry yesterday was even harder today. The only point to which Nomoto did not respond with "No comment" was the first question. The students, he said, requested asylum in Japan. As for the second point, Nomoto refused to answer in concrete terms who guaranteed the safety of the two (who, having this guarantee, "spontaneously" left the embassy). When pressed, he merely indicated that it was someone quite high up. On the third point too, he refused to answer whether or not the Embassy would look out for the students. When asked where they were now, he answered "No comment." His response was similarly vague to the fourth point: to investigate conditions in East Timor.

( Representation

To The Honorable Hiroshi Mitsuzuka
Minister of Foreign Affairs

We request the following with respect to the case of the two East Timorese students who sought political asylum in the Japanese Embassy in Jakarta on June 19, and who, in the early morning of June 22 were ordered to leave the Embassy.

1.We would like a clarification about what the two students requested of the Japanese Embassy.
2.We would like clarification about what guarantee the Japanese Embassy gave the two when they were ordered to leave.
3.We would like (the Embassy) to continue to keep watch over the safety of the two after their departure.
4.Please investigate the human rights situation in East Timor and call on the Indonesian government to establish human rights.
(The rest of the statement is of a general nature, so I omit it.))

The Japanese Government, at least as of yesterday, clearly wanted to get the two out as quickly as possible. The feeling here is that, although the outcome might have been the same, if only they had hung in for two or three more days, the impact here would have been greater.

According to the June 22 evening edition of the Yomiuri, De Cruz did talk to the two and it is at his house where they are now supposedly staying. Both the Asahi and Yomiuri articles say they left the Embassy after being assured they would not be arrested. That they requested asylum in Japan has not been reported.

[redacted] At this point, we still don't even know what happened. After seeing the Guardian articles by Juliet Rix, I wonder if there is any possibility she would go to interview the students.